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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/773,347	02/09/2004	Shigeru Tago	HIRA.0139	7027

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EXAMINER

MAHMOOD, REZWANUL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2164

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/773,347	<b>Applicant(s)</b> TAGO ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Rezwanul Mahmood	<b>Art Unit</b> 2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02/09/04 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

  
**SAM RIMELL**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/11/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

1. The drawings are objected to because they fail to show necessary textual labels of features or symbols in Figure 1 and 3 as described in the specification. A descriptive textual label for each numbered element in these figures would be needed to better understand these figures without substantial analysis of the detailed specification. Any structural detail that is of sufficient importance to be described should be labeled in the drawing. Optionally, the applicant may wish to include a table next to the present figure to fulfill this requirement. See 37 CFR 1.84(n)(o), recited below:

"(n) Symbols. Graphical drawing symbols may be used for conventional elements when appropriate. The elements for which such symbols and labeled representations are used must be adequately identified in the specification. Known devices should be illustrated by symbols which have a universally recognized conventional meaning and are generally accepted in the art. Other symbols which are not universally recognized may be used, subject to approval by the Office, if they are not likely to be confused with existing conventional symbols, and if they are readily identifiable.

(o) Legends. Suitable descriptive legends may be used, or may be required by the Examiner, where necessary for understanding of the drawing, subject to approval by the Office. They should contain as few words as possible."

### ***Specification***

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it refers to the keys "302" and terminal database "D" in Figure 4.
3. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
5. In page 2 line 13, "mode of (2)" should be "mode (2) of".

6. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over De La Huerga (US Publication 2005/0108219) in view of Farrington (US Publication 2004/0059755).

9. With respect to claim 1, De La Huerga discloses a method of outputting a database search information in a database system for retrieving records using a search key and retrieving records from a plurality of databases in a chain-reactive manner (De La Huerga: Paragraph 26, lines 1-25; Paragraph 27, lines 1-5; Paragraph 28, lines 1-3), however, does not disclose expressly the method comprising:

a step of outputting, in the case that a record retrieved from a database on a chain-reactive search path does not contain a search key to be entered into a database that is subsequently searched, information for identifying a first record that does not contain the search key and information for identifying a database having the first record.

The Farrington reference, however, discloses identifying a record that does not contain the search key and information for identifying a database having a record

(Farrington: Paragraph 10, lines 9-20; Figures 1-2J).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to have added the feature of identifying records that do not contain the search key and information for identifying a database having a record.

The suggestion or motivation of doing so would be to provide an easy to use graphical interface for displaying, navigating, and selecting segments and fields of a hierarchical database or data files and for identifying mutual exclusivity between the segments and fields (Farrington: Paragraph 10, lines 4-9).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine De La Huerga and Farrington for the benefit of outputting a database search information.

10. With respect to claim 2, De La Huerga in view of Farrington discloses the method of outputting a database search information according to claim 1, in the case that the first record that does not contain a search key to be entered into a subsequent database is present among records retrieved from any intervening database other than the first database and a pre-designated terminal database, the method comprising:

a step of outputting information for identifying the first record and information for identifying a database having the first record (Farrington: Paragraph 46, lines 1-30; Figures 1-2J); and

a step of outputting the contents of the first record at the same time of the said outputting or in accordance with a specific operation (Farrington: Paragraph 46, lines 1-30; Figures 1-2J).

11. With respect to claim 3, De La Huerga in view of Farrington discloses the method of outputting a database search information according to claim 1, wherein in the step of retrieving search keys and records in a chain-reactive manner, information for identifying a group of search keys and a group of records retrieved through a series of retrieval processes in accordance with the search path is displayed in a matrix form using the databases and a group of the first search keys as indexes (Farrington: Figures 2A-2J).

12. With respect to claim 4, De La Huerga in view of Farrington discloses the method of outputting a database search information according to claim 2, wherein in the step of retrieving search keys and records in a chain-reactive manner, information for identifying a group of search keys and a group of records retrieved through a series of extraction processes in accordance with the search path is displayed in a matrix form using the databases and a group of the first search keys as indexes (Farrington: Figures 2A-2J).

13. With respect to claim 5, De La Huerga in view of Farrington discloses a program for causing a computer to carry out a method of outputting a database search information in a database system for retrieving records using a search key and retrieving records from a plurality of databases in a chain-reactive manner (De La Huerga: Paragraph 26, lines 1-25; Paragraph 27, lines 1-5; Paragraph 28, lines 1-3),

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comprising:

a step of outputting, in the case that a record retrieved from a database on a chain-reactive search path does not contain a search key to be entered into a database that is subsequently searched, information for identifying a first record that does not contain the search key and information for identifying a database having the first record (Farrington: Paragraph 10, lines 9-20; Paragraph 46, lines 1-30; Figures 1-2J).

14. With respect to claim 6, De La Huerga in view of Farrington discloses the program according to claim 5, in the case that the first record that does not contain a search key to be entered into a subsequent database is present among records retrieved from any intervening database other than the first database and a pre-designated terminal database, the method comprising:

a step of outputting information for identifying the first record and information for identifying a database having the first record (Farrington: Paragraph 46, lines 1-30; Figures 1-2J); and

a step of outputting the contents of the first record at the same time of the said outputting or in accordance with a specific operation (Farrington: Paragraph 46, lines 1-30; Figures 1-2J).

15. With respect to claim 7, De La Huerga in view of Farrington discloses the program according to claim 5, wherein in the step of retrieving search keys and records in a chain-reactive manner, information for identifying a group of search keys and a

group of records retrieved through a series of retrieval processes in accordance with the search path is displayed in a matrix form using the databases and a group of the first search keys as indexes (Farrington: Figures 2A-2J).

16. With respect to claim 8, De La Huerga in view of Farrington discloses the program according to claim 6, wherein in the step of retrieving search keys and records in a chain-reactive manner, information for identifying a group of search keys and a group of records retrieved through a series of retrieval processes in accordance with the search path is displayed in a matrix form using the databases and a group of the first search keys as indexes (Farrington: Figures 2A-2J).

### ***Conclusion***

17. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Lussier reference (US Publication 2006/0074991) discloses retrieving records from plurality of databases in a chain-reactive manner. The Rivette reference (US Patent 6,499,026) teaches about processing data in a plurality of databases.

### ***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rezwanul Mahmood whose telephone number is (571)272-5625. The examiner can normally be reached on m-f.



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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571)272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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**SAM RIMELL**  
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